

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 EB-08 MCT-01 PA-01
ICA-11 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
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/104 W

-----050217 091256Z /53

R 091101Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7803
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
US MISSION GENEVA 068
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 202

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1312

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, EAIR, TC
SUBJECT: UAE ACCESSION TO ANTI-HIJACKING CONVERSATIONS

REF: A) ABU DHABI 151 (NOTAL); B) AMBASSADOR'S MEMCON APRIL 16, 1978
(NOTAL) C) STATE 90969 (NOTAL)

1. ON MAY 9, I CALLED ON MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RASHID ABDALL
AH
REGARDING CONTINUED LACK OF ACTION WITHIN UAE GOVERNMENT TO ACCEDE TO
THREE ANTI-HIJACKING CONVERSATION. I NOTED THAT THIS MATTER HAD NOW
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RAISED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS WITH DIFFERENT UAE OFFICIALS BY MYSELF

AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. I RECALLED PERSONALLY RASING THE MATTER
WITH ABDALLAH ON DECEMBER 10, 1977 IN CONTEXT OF UAE PRESIDENT
SHAIKH ZAYID'S CONDEMNATION OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM FOLLOWING
OCTOBER 1977 LUFTHANSA HIJACKING. AT ABDALLAH'S SUGGESTION, I HAD
THEN RAISED IT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI ON JANUARY 17 (REF A).

SINCE SUWAIDI HAD AT TIME TALKED ABOUT CONSULUNG WITH FRIENDLY NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE GIVING AN ANSWER, I HAD BROUGHT THE MATTER UP ONCE MORE WITH SUWAIDI ON MARCH 19. AT THAT TIME, I HAD GIVEN SUWAIDI THE TEXT OF UN RESOLUTION 32/8 AND A LIST OF UN MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT PARTIES TO THREE HIJACKING CONVENTIONS POINTING OUT THAT SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN, JORDAN, OMAN AND EVEN IRAQ WERE PARTIES. CONSEQUENTLY, I COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WERE ANY SERIOUS POLITICAL REASONS TO HOLD UP UAE ACCESSION.

SUWAIDI HAD MADE A NOTE OF MY DEMARCHE AND SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW THIS UP. I HAD ALSO MADE ESSENTIALLY SAME APPROACH TO UAE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION SHAIKH MUHAMMAD WHILE IN DUBAI ON APRIL 16 (REF B). GIVEN MUHAMMAD'S ROLE AS UAE NEGOTIATOR WITH HIJACKERS WHEN LUFTHANSA BOEING WAS IN DUBAI, I FELT THAT HE MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE COULD APPRECIATE IMPORTANCE OF UAE ACCESSION TO CONVENTIONS. MUHAMMAD'S REACTION HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND HE HAD PROMISED TO RAISE MY APPROACH WITHIN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

2. I POINTED OUT TO ABDALLAH THAT IN MEANTIME, WE HAD RECEIVED NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO COORDINATE WITH UK EMBASSY APPROACH TO UAE URGING EARLY ACCESSION. I WAS AWARE THAT MY BRITISH COUNTERPART, AMBASSADOR ROBERTS, HAD MADE DEMARCHE AT UAE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON APRIL 29. I THEN GAVE ABDALLAH AN AIDE MEMOIRE DRAWING ON POINTS CONTAINED REF C, ALONG WITH COPY OF UN RESOLUTION 32/8 AND LIST OF UN MEMBERS NOT PARTY TO THREE CONVENTIONS. FINALLY, I ASKED IF HE COULD GIVE SOME INDICATION OF WHERE MATTERS NOW STAND.

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3. ABDALLAH REPLIED THAT UAE GOVERNMENT IS "NOW STUDYING ADHERENCE TO ALL THREE CONVENTIONS". MFA POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF, YACUB AL KINDI, HAD "BEEN CONSULTING WITH" UAE'S UN PERMANENT REP, AMBASSADOR ALI HUMAIDAN, IN NEW YORK. ABDALLAH REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON HOW LONG THIS PROCESS

WOULD LAST. (COMMENT: HUMAIDAN RECENTLY HAS BEEN IN GENEVA WITH UAE DELEGATION TO LOS). HE DID HOWEVER STATE THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THERE

HAD NOT BEEN ANY CONSULTATIONS YET WITH OTHER GULF NON-SIGNATORIES (KUWAIT, BAHRAIN, QATAR) NOR HAD THERE BEEN ANY APPROACH TO UAE BY SAUDIS OR IRANIANS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE INITIALLY WE BELIEVED REASON FOR UAE NON-ACCESSION WAS PRIMARILY POLITICAL AND STEMMED FROM FEAR OF BEING OUT IN FRONT OF OTHER AREA STATES, WE NOW INCREASINGLY COMING TO CONCLUSION THAT REASON FOR NON-ADHERENCE IS BUREAUCRATIC WITH VARIOUS ADVISORS STUDYING CONVENTIONS FROM LEGAL STANDPOINT. MOREOVER, WITH UAE OFFICIALS CURRENTLY SO TIED UP WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS OVER INTEGRATION,

ANTI-HIJACKING ACCESSION HAS BEEN RELEGATED TO BACK BURNER. THUS, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO PROD UAE OFFICIALS PERIODICALLY.

5. WE HAVE INFORMED BOTH UK AND FRG EMBASSIES OF RESULTS OF OUR APPROACHES. GIVEN FRG INTEREST IN ANTI-TERRORISM AND INVOLVEMENT WITH UAE DURING LUFTHANSA HIJACKING, WE FIND IT STARANGE THAT BONN HAS

NOT INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR HERE TO MAKE SIMILAR PITCH. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE IF SOMEONE AT USUN OR US MISSION GENEVA APPROACHED UAE PERMREP HUMAIDAN TO INQUIRE STATUS HIS CONSUL-TATIONS WITH MFA AUTHORITIES IN ABU DHABI ON MATTER AND TO URGE THESE BE EXPEDITED.

DICKMAN
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